

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

In page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,906), in view of Pettersen (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,594).

No new matter has been added.

OBJECTED TO CLAIMS

As set forth in the Office Action, page 2, objected to allowable dependent claims 2-6, 10-14 and 18-22 are amended into independent form. Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, thereby placing new independent claims 2-6, 10-14 and 18-22 in condition for allowance. Further, dependent claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 20 and 21 are amended to overcome the indefinites rejection, taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the indefinites rejection is respectfully requested.

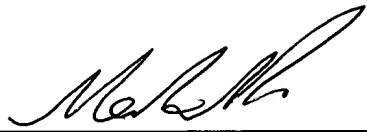
Therefore, claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-22 remain pending and stand as allowable. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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